

Dear FCC,

As a flight safety manager for a major Part 121 air carrier, I feel qualified to say that the idea of allowing passengers to use their cell phone in flight is a poor idea. While I do not believe that there is any particular technology issues, I believe that the incidences of passenger disruptions will increase if the use of cell phones in flight is permitted.

Air travel is stressful by its very nature. People are asked to give up control of their situation, join 100 people or more in a metal tube travelling 500 mph at an altitude of 30,000 feet or more. This is not a natural place for humans to be. While air travel has become commonplace, it still brings with it a certain level of stress.

As a safety professional, I read incident reports where passengers become disruptive because the flight is 10 minutes late, or the right type of beverage is not offered, or a multitude of other small reasons. I think that cell phones will be just another trigger for these types of events.

Aircraft are loud, and phone conversations onboard require people to use a very loud voice to be heard. I witnessed this personally using a seat-back phone years ago. I had to practically yell to be heard. The risk at that time was minimal because the high cost of using those phones kept most people from using them, and when they did use them, it was for a very short period of time. Cell phones are everywhere and minutes are cheap. I would anticipate seeing usage of cell phones in flight being very high.

I do not recommend the use of cell phones in flight because it will increase the stress on individuals on aircraft, and this added stress will increase the numbers of passengers who become distructive to other passengers, and flight crews.

I believe the current policy allowing individuals to use their cell phone, onboard an aircraft, while on the ground is acceptable and supportable.

In short, please do not go forward with the decision to allow cell phone usage in flight onboard scheduled air carrier aircraft.

Sincerely
Frank Raymond, III